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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/118,754	07/17/1998	HIDEO NORO	B208-973	9346

26272 7590 04/02/2003

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EXAMINER

YE, LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/118,754

Applicant(s)

NORO ET AL.

Examiner

Lin Ye

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 1998 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-55 filed on 12/26/02 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 38 and 40 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Referring the independent claim 38 has been amended to "... **executing** automatic control of the video with **transmitting image signals...**", but the dependent claim 40 states "**stopping** automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is **outputted**". They are both conflicts to each other.

Appropriate correction is required.

For examination purpose, these claims will be interpreted as they are best understood. The examiner request the claim 40 should be changed to "stopping automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is **not outputted**".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 1, 3, 11-14, 19, 20, 30-33, 38 and 48-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blackshear U.S. Patent 5,111,288.

Referring to claims 1, 19, 20 and 38, the Blackshear reference discloses in Figures 2-3 and 9, a camera control system for controlling a video camera from a computer terminal via a network, comprising: a video transmitting device (rotary connector 39) adapted to transmit image signals obtained by video camera; a control device (controller 42) adapted to control the video camera on the basis of a control command from the computer terminal (See Col. 5, lines 65-68 and Col. 6, lines 1-5); and wherein said control device execute automatic control (the computer is preferably preprogrammed for various automatic operation, See Col. 6, lines 6-12) of the video camera with transmitting image signals (During the automatic operation, operator still can view the image signal on monitor until see an activity of possible interest to him, he may place the system in its manual mode, See Col. 6, lines 49-56) if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal (the camera continues in the automatic operation until a command is entered or an alarm activated, see Col. 10, lines 15-22).

Referring to claim 3, the Blackshear reference discloses the camera control system stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted from video transmitting (such as an invalid identifying number of target vectoring file containing sequences of preshots which entered by operator is not exist in memory) and control returned to the command interrogation portion as shown in Figure 9 (See Col. 9, lines 26-53 and Col. 10, lines 19-22).

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Referring to claims 11-12, 30-31 and 48-49, the Blackshear reference discloses the camera control system stores at least of an image pickup direction of the video camera (information specifying the camera pan and tilt orientations, zoom and focus settings), and executes automatic control of the video camera on the basis of the loci of the image pickup direction of the video camera storage (See Co. 8, lines 5-14).

Referring to claims 13, 32 and 50, the camera control system stores an image pickup direction relative to a central position in a range (limits) in the video camera can pickup an image (See Col. 9, lines 10-24).

Referring to claims 14, 33 and 51, the camera control system stores at least one of a zoom magnification, a subject distance and an on/off state of backlight correction of the video camera, correspondingly with the image pickup direction of the video camera. (See Col. 9, lines 44-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 4-10, 15-18, 21-29, 34-37, 39-47 and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackshear U.S. Patent 5,111,288 in view of Sasaki et al. U.S. Patent 6,122,005.

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Referring to claims 2, 21, and 39, the Blackshear reference discloses all subject matter as discussed in respected claims 1, 20 and 38, except the reference does not explicitly states control device executes automatic control of the video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period.

The Sasaki reference discloses in Figures 1-2 and 31- 35, a camera control system (44) is capable to control a video camera (32) from a plurality of computer terminals (Communication terminal 50, 52, 54, 56 as shown in Figure 2) via a network (46); the camera control system executes automatic control (camera to the home position) of the video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period (camera control unit includes a time-out monitor 1132 which set a predetermined time period to cause a disconnect between the camera and the control unit, as state before, causes the camera to return to a "home position, See Col 20, lines 64-67). The Sasaki reference is an evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see the camera control system can preprogram the camera to go back to execute automatic control after the control command is not received for a predetermined time period instead just keep waiting the command to activity the automatic control of the camera. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see the camera control system can be preprogrammed to executes automatic control of the video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period discloses by Blackshear.

Referring to claims 4, 23 and 41, the Blackshear reference discloses all subject matter as discussed in respected claims 1 and 38, except the reference does not explicitly states the

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video camera is adapted to a plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera.

The Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system issues a control right of the video camera to one of the plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera which is required for control the video camera, wherein said control device executes automatic control of the video camera if the control right of the video camera is not issued to any of the plurality of computer terminals by said issuing device. (See Col. 20, lines 47- 63 and Col. 19, lines 12 -19). The Sasaki reference is an evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see more advantages for the camera control system be able to issue a control right of the video camera to one of a plurality of computer terminals instead just single computer terminal. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see the video camera is adapted to a plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera discloses by Blackshear.

Referring to claims 5, 24 and 42, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system executes automatic control of the video camera if a predetermined time period elapses after the control right of the video camera is released (See Col 20, lines 64-67).

Referring to claims 6, 25 and 43, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system transmits a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals (See Col. 6, lines 50-64). It stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted from video transmitting

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to any computer terminal other than the computer terminal to which the control right of the video camera is issued. (See Col. 19, lines 12 -19).

Referring to claims 7, 26 and 44, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system issues control rights of a predetermined plurality of video cameras to one computer terminal. (See Figure 29, step 234).

Referring to claims 8, 27 and 45, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video camera s if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video camera s are not issued to any of the computer terminals. (See Col. 19, lines 12 -19).

Referring to claims 9, 28 and 46, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system executes automatic control of the predetermined plurality of video cameras excluding a video camera whose control right is received, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to one computer terminal by issuing device (See Figure 4, when a home-position button 120 is executed by the camera control system).

Referring to claims 10, 29 and 47, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system executes automatic control of video cameras whose control rights are not received for a predetermined time period, from among the predetermined time period, from among the predetermined plurality of video cameras, if the control rights of the predetermined plurality of video cameras are issued to on computer terminal (See Col 20, lines 48-64).

Referring to claims 16, 35 and 53, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system wherein if automatic control (camera to home position) is executed by said automatic control device (a home radio button 1070 as shown in Figures 24 and 35, See Col. 15, line

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57), said video transmitting device transmits video signals from the predetermined plurality of video cameras to a computer terminal (See Col. 20, lines 47-63) which has made the video transmission request, while changing over the video signals at intervals of a predetermined time period (as state before time-out monitor 1132 which set a predetermined time period to cause the camera controller release the camera from control, See Col 20, lines 48-60).

Referring to claims 17, 36 and 54, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system counts at least one of the number of times by which the control right has been issued to each of a predetermined plurality of video cameras, and issues the number of times by which a request to acquire the control right of each of the predetermined plurality of video cameras has been received from the plurality of computer terminals. It controls changeover time periods of outputting of video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the number of times counted (See Figure 9). It also execute control command and changes over the video images from the predetermined plurality of video cameras on the basis of the changeover time periods controlled by changeover means and outputs a video image to a computer terminal which has made the video transmission request (See Col 12, line 1-25).

Referring to claims 18, 37 and 55, the Sasaki reference discloses the camera control system controls the changeover time periods of outputting of the video signals of the predetermined plurality of video cameras in proportion to the number of times counted by counting means. (See Col. 13, lines 34-57).

Referring to claims 22 and 40, based on the motivation from claims 4, 23 and 41, it would have been obvious to see the video camera is adapted to a plurality of computer

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terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera discloses by Blackshear. The Sasaki reference also discloses the camera control system transmits a video image of the video camera in response to a request from each of the plurality of computer terminals (Communication terminal 50, 52, 54, 56 as shown in Figure 2). It stops automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted from video transmitting as shown in Figure 26, step S207 (busy/No response).

Referring to claims 15, 34 and 52, based on the motivation from claims 4, 23 and 41, it would have been obvious to see the video camera is adapted to a plurality of computer terminals which makes a request to acquire the control right of the video camera discloses by Blackshear. The Sasaki reference also discloses the camera control system divides a range of controllable image pickup directing of the video camera into a plurality of ranges and measuring a time period which elapses when the video camera is being controlled in accordance with a control command from one of the plurality of computer terminals in each of the plurality of divided ranges, and controls an image pickup direction of the video camera within a particular range of the plurality of divided ranges in which particular range a total of the time periods measured is largest. (See Col. 20, lines 47-63).

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lin Ye** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3250**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC. 20231

Or faxed to:


(703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Lin Ye
March 18, 2003


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600